(b) the names of companies/organisations engaged in drilling operation and the terms of reference in each case;

(c) the number of exploratory drilling which are operating in Mahanadi Basin and East coast off shore and by which companies/organisations and since when and current status of each drilling; and

(d) the number of new wells which have started functioning during each of the last three years and amount of additional oil/natural gas produced from such new wells during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Price charged by private LPG suppliers

4131. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether people living in rural/hilly and remote areas depend upon private agencies for their LPG supply;

(b) whether the price of LPG supplied by private agencies is more than the price charged by Government companies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure supply of LPG to people living in remote areas at the same price as charged in plain areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are releasing domestic LPG connections on demand in all the LPG markets including rural/hilly and remote areas except in some States of North-east region where the release of new connections is temporarily restricted due to shortage of cylinders.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The domestic LPG marketed by OMCs is subsidised.

(d) The basic price of domestic LPG marketed by OMCs is same in all parts of the country.